Our mission is to transform the public school system so that all district and charter students have access to high-quality public schools.

Los Angeles Advocacy Council
2018-19 New Member Application

Overview of the Los Angeles Advocacy Council

Founded in 2016, the Los Angeles Advocacy Council (LAAC) is a 17-member steering committee made up of charter school leaders representing different school types, geographic, and policy focuses and is responsible for defining the scope of CCSA's advocacy priorities in Los Angeles.

- Mission: To transform the public school system so that all district and charter students have access to high-quality public schools.
- Vision: To unify the LA charter community in voice and action with a commitment to sustain and grow high-quality charter schools in which every student achieves at the highest level.
- Core Values: We are united. We are bold. We are focused on quality growth.

To date, the LAAC has led the LA charter community on the following advocacy achievements:

- Negotiated significant, positive changes to LAUSD's District Required Language (DRL), including the flexibility for LAUSD-authorized charters to become their own LEA for Special Education and join the SELPA of their choice, and the removal of DRL language that prohibits more creative, stable, long-term facilities use agreements.
- Played a key role in the Applicable Policies Working Group at LAUSD, resulting in a successful, collaborative staff recommendation to the LAUSD Board of Education to approve a list of agreed-upon applicable polices as referenced in DRL as well as approve one, uniform version of DRL for all LAUSD-authorized charter schools.
- Spearheaded Charter Community Authorization and Oversight Survey collecting critical data for advocacy efforts such as the above recommendation.
- Collected and shared feedback, in the form of a media statement and op-ed, from the broader LA charter community on the desired characteristics of a new LAUSD superintendent.
- Changed membership qualifications for CCSA's appointment to the Bond Oversight Committee enabling Michael Keeley's continued service as the CCSA representative.
- Coordinated charter community letter to the State Board of Education (SBE) raising concerns with LAUSD authorization and oversight.
- Coordinated charter community advocacy opposing unprecedented uptick in charter denial recommendations in October 2016.
- Helped launch and support the California Schools Are Sanctuaries (CASAS) Coalition alongside the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of California, CCSA, and other charter schools.
- Coordinated responses to UTLA's escalation of anti-colocation attacks.

Invitation to Apply

A limited number of current LAAC members will term out as of June 30, 2018. In addition, the LAAC recently voted to expand its membership from 17 to 21 members. As a result, the LAAC is extending this invitation to apply for LAAC membership to all LAUSD charter leaders.

Eligibility Requirements
LAAC members are charter school leaders who serve in the primary decision-maker role at their school or charter management organization. These leaders are expected to attend the meeting, not surrogates from their organization.

LAAC members are expected to commit to monthly, in-person meetings as well as additional phone conferences as needed. Failure to attend at least 75% of meetings can result in a violation of the LAAC bylaws. LAAC members are expected to attend these meetings themselves and may not send a surrogate.

In addition, LAAC members commit to leading and participating in collective advocacy efforts through LAAC committees and working groups, and by taking action individually and on behalf of their charter school organizations.

The LAAC is committed to representing the diversity of the LA charter school community in the following ways:

- The membership of the LAAC will include at least one representative from each Los Angeles Unified Board District.
- There will be at least one member that represents each of the following types of schools or organizations:
  - CMO
  - Conversion
  - Single Site
  - New School/Org (4 years or less in operation)
  - With Collective Bargaining Agreements
  - Blended Learning (The LAAC seeks to expand the diversity of learning models represented in its composition and will actively reevaluate its composition to reflect the needs and interests of the L.A. charter community.)
- The LAAC is committed to racial, ethnic and gender diversity, and seeks to achieve a level of diversity in its member composition that is truly reflective of the charter leaders, staff and students of Los Angeles.

Application Instructions
Interested charter leaders are asked to complete an application by May 1, 2018. To apply, please prepare a brief response to each of the following questions. Please limit each response to a maximum of 150 words (approximately 5 sentences):

1. Why are you interested in joining the LA Advocacy Council?
2. How have you been engaged in successful advocacy in the past?
3. In your opinion, what are the most pressing issues facing LAUSD charter schools over the next 2 years that require an intense focus on advocacy?

Please send applications, as well as direct any questions, to Jennie Shin at jshin@ccsa.org or 213.220.2326.